A Forgotten Fame

Script for TV Pilot - Full Version

Genre: Supernatural Drama/Thriller

Runtime: Approx. 1 Hour

ACT ONE: THE BEGINNING OF FAME

SCENE 1

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD – DAY

A teenage MICHAEL STARR (15) sits on the porch of his modest home, flipping through a dog-eared notebook filled with scribbled dreams: movies, music, fame. His wide, hopeful eyes scan the horizon as kids his age play basketball nearby.

Michael's world is small, but his dreams are larger than life.

MICHAEL

(under his breath)

Someday… they'll all know my name.

MOM (O.S.)

Michael, dinner's ready!

Michael snaps the notebook shut.

MICHAEL

Coming, Ma!

As Michael gets up, he notices something strange in the distance—a man in a sharp, black suit leans casually against a streetlamp, watching him.

SCENE 2

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Michael sketches in his notebook, dreaming of a life far beyond his small-town existence.

The room grows unnaturally quiet.

VOICE (O.S.)

You’ve got ambition.

Startled, Michael looks up to see the suited man—THE DEVIL—sitting calmly in the corner.

MICHAEL

Who are you? How did you—

THE DEVIL

Let’s skip the introductions. (smiles) I’m here to help.

Michael backs away cautiously.

MICHAEL

Help with what?

THE DEVIL

Your dreams, Michael. Fame, fortune, the world at your feet. That’s what you want, isn’t it?

Michael hesitates, clutching his notebook tightly.

MICHAEL

What’s the catch?

THE DEVIL

(smirks)

Smart kid. There’s always a price, but it’s small. All I ask is a promise.

He pulls out an ornate contract written in glowing, fiery ink.

THE DEVIL

Sign this, and I’ll give you everything you’ve ever wanted. But remember… fame is fleeting.

Michael stares at the contract. He’s tempted but unsure.

MICHAEL

How fleeting?

THE DEVIL

(smiling)

Long enough to taste it.

Michael hesitates, then slowly takes the pen.

MICHAEL

I'll do it.

He signs the contract, and the Devil disappears, leaving behind a faint scent of sulfur.

SCENE 3

MONTAGE – MICHAEL'S RISE TO FAME

- Michael's first movie premiere: fans scream his name as he walks the red carpet.
- Magazine covers with Michael's face: "Hollywood's New It Star."
- Lavish parties, luxury cars, private jets.
- Michael performing on a late-night talk show, basking in applause.

Voiceover from Michael's past self echoes:

YOUNG MICHAEL (V.O.)

Someday, they'll all know my name.

ACT TWO: THE FALL

SCENE 4

EXT. NEW YORK CITY – NIGHT

Ten years later. Michael (now 27) walks the streets of New York in a police uniform, unrecognizable. The glitz and glamour are gone.

Michael's face is weary, his eyes hollow. He walks past a movie theater showing one of his old films. A couple admires the poster.

FAN 1

I loved that guy. What happened to him?

Michael ducks his head and keeps walking.

SCENE 5

INT. POLICE STATION – DAY

Michael sits at his desk, shuffling through paperwork. His partner, DETECTIVE MARCUS, notices his mood.

MARCUS

You good, Starr?

MICHAEL

Yeah. Just tired.

Marcus chuckles.

MARCUS

Man, you gotta lighten up. It’s just a job.

Michael doesn’t respond.

SCENE 6

EXT. SUBWAY STATION – NIGHT

Michael responds to a disturbance call. He sees a familiar face in the crowd: EDDIE, a sleazy tabloid journalist.

EDDIE

Michael Starr? No way.

Michael freezes.

MICHAEL

Wrong guy.

EDDIE

Oh, it’s you, all right. (grins) What happened, man? You were a star!

Michael grabs Eddie by the collar.

MICHAEL

Leave me alone.

Eddie laughs.

EDDIE

You can’t run from it forever, Starr. People don’t forget.

SCENE 7

INT. MICHAEL’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Michael stares at old photos of his younger self: red carpets, awards, parties.

Suddenly, the Devil appears again.

THE DEVIL

How’s that 9-to-5 treating you?

Michael glares at him.

MICHAEL

You tricked me.

THE DEVIL

(smiling)

I gave you exactly what you asked for. Fame, fortune… you had it all.

MICHAEL

And now it’s gone.

THE DEVIL

It doesn’t have to be. (leans closer) I can give it back. All of it.

Michael hesitates, torn between temptation and the life he’s trying to rebuild.

ACT THREE: THE RECKONING

SCENE 8

INT. ABANDONED THEATER – NIGHT

Michael meets the Devil one last time.

MICHAEL

I want out.

The Devil laughs.

THE DEVIL

Out? There’s no out, Michael. You signed the contract.

Michael holds up the original contract, which he’s been studying.

MICHAEL

You didn’t say anything about redemption.

THE DEVIL

(smirking)

Redemption? That’s not in my department.

Suddenly, the room fills with a golden light. GOD appears, calm and wise.

GOD

But it’s in mine.

The Devil snarls, backing away.

GOD

Michael, you’ve learned what matters. Your fame was never your worth.

Michael looks between the Devil and God, finally understanding.

MICHAEL

I don’t need fame. I need peace.

The Devil vanishes, defeated.

SCENE 9 : The Final Choice

EXT. PARK – DAY

Setting: The quiet park. Michael walks, free from the temptation of fame. The media and paparazzi are forgotten. He has reclaimed his peace, his redemption, and is walking into a new life.

He watches children playing and smiles, content.

Michael (smiling softly to himself): “I’m free.”

Suddenly, Michael’s phone buzzes in his pocket. He pulls it out, staring at the screen as an anonymous text message appears.

Text Message: “You thought you were free. But I never said it was over.”

Michael freezes, his heart races. He scans the park nervously, expecting someone to appear, but the park is empty. The wind rustles through the trees, but no one is there. His finger hovers over the screen as if debating whether to respond or ignore it. He ultimately puts the phone back into his pocket, his expression torn between confusion and determination.

Voiceover (Michael’s thoughts): “What did I miss? What’s next?”

The camera pulls back slowly as Michael walks away, his face uncertain, deep in thought. The tension builds as the final shot lingers on his face. A moment of hesitation—then the screen cuts to black.

Text on Screen: “The story is far from over.”

Credits roll.

FADE OUT.

END OF PILOT